

1. (Currently Amended) A surgical clamp, comprising:

a clamp head;

a first jaw and a second jaw, each mounted to the clamp head for movement toward and away from each other, and each having a distal end;

an operative mechanism coupled to the proximal end of at least one of the first jaw and the second jaw; and

an actuating structure connected to the operative mechanism, ~~the actuating structure configured to move for imparting a parallel opening movement to~~ at least one of the first jaw and the second jaw from a first ~~configuration position, where the first jaw and the second jaw are positioned substantially parallel to one another,~~ to a second ~~configuration position where the distal ends of the first jaw and the second jaw are spaced apart a first distance and are positioned substantially parallel to one another, the first and second jaw defining a plane that is parallel to the first and second jaw and located therebetween when the first and second jaws are in the first and second position,~~ and wherein the actuating structure is further configured to selectively rotate at least one of the first jaw and the second jaw relative to the other of the first jaw and the second jaw ~~plane from the second configuration position to a third configuration,~~ distal ends of the first jaw and the second jaw are spaced apart a distance greater than the first distance ~~and the first jaw and the second jaw are not substantially parallel to one another.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The surgical clamp of claim 1, wherein the ~~actuating structure operative mechanism~~ is configured to maintain the other of the first jaw and the second jaw in a fixed position relative to the clamp head when one of the first jaw and the second jaw is rotated ~~to the third position.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The surgical clamp of claim 1, wherein the ~~actuating structure comprises:~~ (a) ~~first jaw includes a first plate structure, attached to at the proximal end of the first jaw, the plate structure having an a first elongate slot formed therein;~~ (b) ~~a the second plate structure, attached to jaw including a plate structure at the proximal end of the second jaw, having an a second elongate slot formed therein, the first and second slots extending in~~

substantially parallel spaced relationships; and ~~(c) the operative mechanism comprises a~~ linkage arrangement having first and second guide pins extending into respectively each of the first and second elongate slots, whereby the actuating structure is configured to impart opening movement to the linkage arrangement by slidably displacing the guide pins in the slots to form the substantially parallel spacing between the first and second jaws.

4. (Currently Amended) The surgical clamp of claim 3, wherein the ~~slot in the first plate~~ structure ~~of the first jaw~~ includes an angled slot portion, whereby, upon further actuation of the ~~actuating structure~~~~operative mechanism~~, the first guide pin is displaced into the angled slot portion causing the linkage arrangement to pivot the first jaw such that the first and second jaws move from the second configuration position to the third configuration position.

5. (Previously Presented) The surgical clamp of claim 3, wherein the linkage arrangement comprises a plurality of closeable and openable parallel scissors links.

6. (Previously Presented) The surgical clamp of claim 4, wherein the first and second jaws of the pair of jaws are simultaneously openable and closeable responsive to actuation of the operative mechanism.

7. (Currently Amended) The surgical clamp of claim 6, wherein opening movement of the second jaw is provided by a guide pin slidably arranged in a link member of the linkage ~~arrangement~~~~system~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The surgical clamp of claim 1, wherein the clamp head comprises an angled linkage member pivotably attached to the proximal ends of the first and second elongate jaws, ~~the first jaw including and further comprising: a first plate structure attached to the first jaw~~ having a vertically extending slot with an angled upper slot portion; a guide pin at the upper end of the angled linkage member being slidable within the slot, whereby upon actuation of the linkage member by the actuating structure the guide pin is displaced upwardly in the slot so as to initially open the first jaw in parallel relationship with the second

jaw, and upon the guide pin entering the upper angled slot portion further pivoting the second jaw in a scissors-like wider opening displacement.

9. (Previously Presented) The surgical clamp of claim 1, wherein elastomeric cushioning means are provided on the facing surfaces of the first and second elongated jaws.

10. (Previously Presented) The surgical clamp of claim 1, wherein the first and second jaws are curved along the axial lengths thereof to accommodate the curvature of body vessels.

11. (Currently Amended) The surgical clamp of claim 1, wherein the operative mechanism ~~actuating structure comprises a cable actuable by extending through an endoscopic or laparoscopic device.~~

12. (Previously Presented) The surgical clamp of claim 1, wherein the first jaw and the second jaw are dimensioned to provide an operative length of about 65-75 mm.

13. (Currently Amended) The surgical clamp of claim 12, wherein the first jaw and the second jaw are spaced apart about 10-12 mm when in the first configuration~~position~~, and are spaced apart up to about 40 mm when in the third configuration~~position~~.

14. (Currently Amended) A clamp, comprising:

a first jaw ~~having including~~ a first slot extending along a first plane;

a second jaw ~~having including~~ a second slot extending along a second plane, the first and second jaws each being arranged such that the first and second planes are substantially parallel to each other, one of the first and second slots having an angled slot portion extending along a third plane at an angle to one of the first and second planes;

a linkage mechanism having at least a first pin for engagement in the first slot and at least a second pin for engagement in the second slot; and

an actuator for displacing the linkage mechanism from a first position, wherein the first pin and the second pin are positioned in the first and second slots in a substantially

parallel configuration, to a second position, wherein one of the first pin and the second pin is positioned within the angled slot portion.

15. (Previously Presented) The clamp of claim 14, wherein the linkage mechanism comprises a plurality of closeable and openable parallel scissors links.

16. (Previously Presented) The clamp of claim 14, wherein the first and second jaws are simultaneously openable and closeable responsive to actuation of the linkage mechanism.

17. (Currently Amended) The clamp of claim 15, wherein opening movement of the second jaw is provided by a guide pin slidably arranged in a link member of the linkage mechanism ~~system~~.

18. (Previously Presented) The clamp of claim 14, wherein the actuator comprises a cable.

19. (Previously Presented) The clamp of claim 14, comprising elastomeric cushioning means are provided on the facing surfaces of the first and second elongated jaws.

20. (Previously Presented) The clamp of claim 19, wherein the elastomeric cushioning means comprise replaceable resilient pads mounted on the jaws, the pads being formed of a fabric or plastic material.

21-23 (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method of occluding a blood vessel with a clamp, comprising the steps of:

providing a clamp head, comprising:

a first jaw and a second jaw, each mounted to the clamp head for movement toward and away from each other, and each having a distal end;

an operative mechanism coupled to the proximal end of at least one the first jaw and the second jaw; and

an actuating structure connected to the operative mechanism, ~~the actuating structure configured to move for imparting parallel opening movement to~~ at least one of the first jaw and the second jaw from a first ~~configuration, where the first jaw and the second jaw are positioned substantially parallel to one another, position to a second configuration, position~~ where distal ends of the first jaw and the second jaw are spaced apart a first distance and ~~are positioned substantially parallel to one another, the first and second jaw defining a plane that is parallel to the first and second jaw and located therebetween when the first and second jaws are in the first and second position, and wherein the actuating structure is further configured to selectively rotate at least one of the first jaw and the second jaw relative to the other of the first jaw and the second jaw plane from the second configuration position to a third configuration where position such that the distal ends of the first jaw and the second jaw are spaced apart a distance greater than the first distance and the first jaw and the second jaw are not substantially parallel to one another;~~

creating an opening in a patient's body;

positioning the first jaw and the second jaw in the first ~~configuration~~position;

passing the clamp head through the opening;

actuating the actuating structure to cause one of the first jaw and the second jaw to move to the third ~~configuration~~position;

positioning the first jaw and the second jaw such that the blood vessel is disposed between first jaw and the second jaw; and

actuating the actuating structure to cause ~~one of the first jaw and the second jaw to move to the first configuration~~position to clamp the blood vessel.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, comprising the steps of:

actuating the actuating structure to cause one of the first jaw and the second jaw to move to the second ~~configuration~~ position prior to clamping the blood vessel.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the opening is a small opening.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the opening is an intercostal opening.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the clamp head is passed through a trocar positioned within the opening.